

By **CONGRESSMAN**
KEN HECHLER

Editorial Praise Is Heaped Upon Nominee for Congress

By **CONGRESSMAN**
KEN HECHLER

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the 11th in a series of articles on the life of "Young" Albert Gallatin Jenkins, a member of the 11th District of Congress from Greenbottom, Va., who was elected to Congress in 1857. (Continued from page 1.)

What was the reaction of the older heads in the district at the surprise nomination of a political unknown just turned 26 years of age?

With some trepidation, Albert Gallatin Jenkins returned home to Greenbottom, tired by the round-the-clock exertions of the Parkersburg convention which had nominated him for the House of Representatives after the 19th ballot. He did not have to wait long for the reaction.

The Kanawha Valley Star in Charleston immediately hopped on his bandwagon: "Mr. Jenkins is a young man of decided talent," wrote the Star on Dec. 16, 1856. "He comes into the political arena with all that zeal and devotion to his political opinions which an honest purpose is sure to instill into an honest man. Without the scars and engendered bitterness of past party conflicts, he is pre-

pared to regard with calmness and discretion the issues now pressing upon a rapidly developing people."

Praise Flows Out

The Star waxed more expansive and specific in its editorial of Jan. 13, 1857: "Mr. Jenkins is a young man of bright intellect, of strict integrity, and an accomplished gentleman. A complete education has adorned a naturally fine heart, and added a luster to his native abilities. He is an unwavering Democrat of the strictest sect, and is an animated and fluent speaker. It was our good fortune to hear him in the Court-house of Ritchie, early in the last gubernatorial contest, and during the whole canvass we heard no more sound or conclusive arguments against Know Nothingism and in favor of Democratic principles than were then made by him."

Praise came not alone from local sources. During the period when he was getting established in his law practice, young Jenkins had made a number of trips to St. Louis, Mo., perhaps because of his deep personal attachment to Miss Virginia Bowlin, daughter of Judge James Butler Bowlin who had served four terms in Congress from the St. Louis area. In courting Virginia Bowlin, the dashing, dark and handsome young Jenkins

had made many friends in the Mound City of Missouri. Nevertheless, it came as an agreeable surprise to western Virginians

to get the news that the St. Louis Leader had run a laudatory editorial on Jenkins's nomination.

Praise From St. Louis

"A. G. Jenkins, of Cabell County, Va., has been nominated for Congress for the 11th District, by acclamation. Mr. Jenkins is a sterling Democrat, of splendid abilities. He is well-known in St. Louis, where he formerly resided. He was a member of the Cincinnati convention and stumped the district for Buchanan so successfully that the majority footed up 2,500, although Congressman John S. Carlile had been returned at the previous election

by a majority. The Democracy of the district have rewarded the brilliant exertions of Mr. Jenkins by nominating him for Congress. The election takes place next May.

The nomination deserves notice for its very unusual character in Virginia. The 11th District includes nineteen counties, all of which were fully repre-

ented in the nominating convention. The nomination was made by acclamation, the only nomination of the kind in the history of the district. Mr. Jenkins is a young man of decided talent, and of unusual industry and energy for his years and of unexceptional habits—a thing that tells in the long run more than most young men who enter upon a political career. His large fortune adds an element to the

chances of that success which, if he lives, we confidently expect.

It is a strange phenomenon that the editorial writers of St. Louis to pen this laudatory phrase "If he lives."

The young nominee for Con-

gress, if he noticed the phrase, "If he lives," would have been in the position of a man who, after a long and weary journey, had just reached his destination, and was told that he would live forever, and to live so long that he would die tomorrow.

(To Be Continued)